

Robert F. Posadas

FCC Licensee
K81GH-LP, San Diego
397 Canyon Ridge Drive
Bonita CA 91902

Telephone 619-421-4208
Fax 619-421-4208

The Honorable Clarence (Larry) Irving, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Room 4898
Washington, D.C. 20230

November 27, 1996

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Four years ago you, along with Congressman Markey and Vice President Gore, led the victorious effort to enact the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992. Ever since, hundreds of independent television programmers have anxiously anticipated implementation of the Act's leased access provisions, which were intended to ensure that the vertically and horizontally integrated cable television operators could not exploit their controlling position to monopolize the programming that could be received by cable consumers.

Unfortunately, the FCC's implementation and oversight of leased access has been shameful, and the cable companies are treating leased access programmers even worse today than they did in 1992. This is partly due to the inept regulations approved by the FCC, which have harmed the very people - independent programmers and consumers - that they were intended to assist. Frankly, this entire lease access exercise has been a charade, with the only winners being the cable companies.

Mr. Secretary, the information superhighway will remain a fantasy if its entrance ramps are impenetrable and its tollbooths are anticompetitive. The current lease access situation harms consumers and the entrepreneurs who are trying to reach them, and must be changed immediately.

In our particular situation in San Diego leased access costs a minimum of \$ 40,000 per month. Cox Cable have increased rates last November 15, 1996 and Southwestern cable followed suit. There is almost no minority representation for Asian-Americans here in San Diego because of the prohibitive cost of leased access to independent community programmers like ourselves.

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We urge you to communicate to the FCC that its mandate is to promulgate leased access regulations that effectuate a genuine outlet for independent programmers.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance in this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Posadas', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

Robert F. Posadas
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397 Canyon Ridge Drive
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Telephone 619-421-4208
Fax 619-421-4208

The Honorable Randy Cunningham
U.S. House of Representatives
227 Canon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

November 27, 1996

Dear Representative Cunningham:

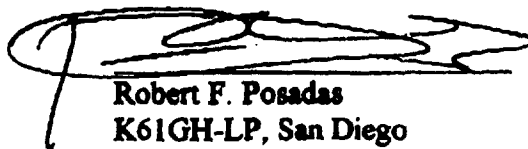
As the owner/operator/manager of an independent community television station, I am very angry about the Federal Communications Commission's four-year delay in implementing the leased access provisions of the 1992 Cable Act. These laws were intended to ensure that small stations like ours, who are not financially affiliated with the enormous cable companies that control cable system access, would have reasonable opportunities for local cable system carriage. The FCC's lengthy delay in implementing Congress' mandate has been extraordinarily harmful to programmers and producers like myself, as well as to the audiences we are trying to serve.

The 1992 leased access provisions - which notably were not repealed in the 1996 Telecommunications Act - were one of Congress' many responses to the increased concentration among cable system operators and the increased vertical integration between system operators and programmers. Having witnessed excessive cable company discrimination against programmers that did not have industry financial participation, Congress directed the FCC to develop regulations that would provide a realistic opportunity for unaffiliated programmers to crack the industry oligopoly and gain access to the viewing public. Unfortunately, in four years the FCC has yet to effectively implement Congress' mandate, while in the interim the integrated cable companies are charging outrageous rates for access when they are providing it at all.

Please let me know who in your office will assist in persuading the FCC to follow Congress' instructions on this issue. I will be calling you soon to follow up.

Thank you for your consideration and urgent assistance.

Sincerely,



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Telephone 619-421-4208
Fax 619-421-4208

The Honorable Brian Bilbray
U.S. House of Representatives
1004 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

November 27, 1996

Dear Representative Bilbray:

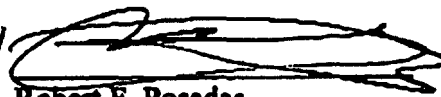
As the owner/operator/manager of an independent community television station, I am very angry about the Federal Communications Commission's four-year delay in implementing the leased access provisions of the 1992 Cable Act. These laws were intended to ensure that small stations like ours, who are not financially affiliated with the enormous cable companies that control cable system access, would have reasonable opportunities for local cable system carriage. The FCC's lengthy delay in implementing Congress' mandate has been extraordinarily harmful to programmers and producers like myself, as well as to the audiences we are trying to serve.

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Bonita CA 91902

Telephone 619-421-4208
Fax 619-421-4208

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
U.S. Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

November 27, 1996

Dear Senator Boxer:

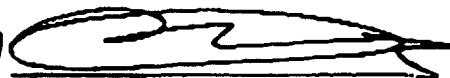
As the owner/operator/manager of an independent community television station, I am very angry about the Federal Communications Commission's four-year delay in implementing the leased access provisions of the 1992 Cable Act. These laws were intended to ensure that small stations like ours, who are not financially affiliated with the enormous cable companies that control cable system access, would have reasonable opportunities for local cable system carriage. The FCC's lengthy delay in implementing Congress' mandate has been extraordinarily harmful to programmers and producers like myself, as well as to the audiences we are trying to serve.

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K61GH-LP, San Diego

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397 Canyon Ridge Drive
Bonita CA 91902

Telephone 619-421-4208
Fax 619-421-4208

The Honorable Diane Feinstein
U.S. Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

November 27, 1996

Dear Senator Feinstein:

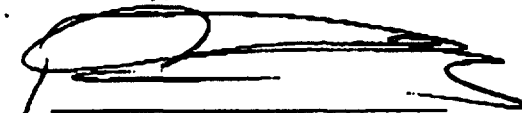
As the owner/operator/manager of an independent community television station, I am very angry about the Federal Communications Commission's four-year delay in implementing the leased access provisions of the 1992 Cable Act. These laws were intended to ensure that small stations like ours, who are not financially affiliated with the enormous cable companies that control cable system access, would have reasonable opportunities for local cable system carriage. The FCC's lengthy delay in implementing Congress' mandate has been extraordinarily harmful to programmers and producers like myself, as well as to the audiences we are trying to serve.

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Thank you for your consideration and urgent assistance.

Sincerely,



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K61GH-LP, San Diego

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K61GH-LP, San Diego
387 Canyon Ridge Drive
Bonita CA 91902

Telephone 619-421-4208
Fax 619-421-4208

The Honorable AL Gore
Vice President
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20501

November 27, 1996

Dear Mr. Vice President:

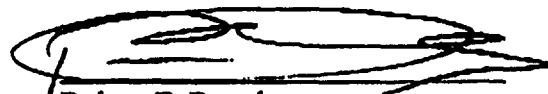
Four years ago, as a member of the United States Senate, you led the victorious effort to enact the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992. Ever since, hundreds of independent television programmers have anxiously anticipated implementation of the Act's leased access provisions, which were intended to ensure that the vertically and horizontally integrated cable television operators, could not exploit their controlling position to prevent competitive programmers from their only opportunity to reach the viewing public.

Unfortunately, the Federal Communications Commission's implementation and oversight of leased access has been shameful, and the cable companies treat leased access programmers worse today than they did when the Act was passed. In part this is a result of the FCC's inept regulations in this area, which exacerbated the problems rather than reducing them. Now, for example, most cable systems charge higher prices for leased access than before the FCC's regulations were approved. In San Diego, Cox Cable can provide leased access for approximately \$ 40,000 per month way out of reach of independent community programmers like ourselves. Not to mention that Cox Cable has increased cable rates last November 15, 1996 and Southwestern Cable followed suit.

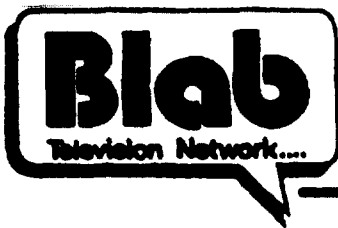
Mr. Vice President, this Administration cannot continue to permit the information highway to develop in a manner that benefits only those who own the road. The current leased access system is useless to consumers and damaging to independent community programmers like ourselves, all of whom you have worked so hard to help.

Thank you for your consideration and urgent assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert F. Posadas
K61GH-LP, San Diego



TV you can talk back to.

The Honorable Joe Scarborough
U.S. House of Representatives
Fax (202) 225-4314

Dear Joe:

As the President of Blab TV I am getting increasingly angry with regard to the FCC's FOUR-YEAR DELAY in implementing the leased accessed provisions of the 1992 Cable Act. These laws were passed to ensure that small operations like mine, who have no affiliation with the enormous cable companies that control access, would have a reasonable opportunity for local cable carriage. The FCC's lengthy delay in implementing Congress's mandate has been extraordinarily harmful to local programmers such as myself, as well as to the audiences we are trying to serve.

The point of the above paragraph is dramatically driven home when you realize that Blab TV between 1984 and 1988 began programming in Pensacola FL., Mobile AL., New Orleans LA., Richmond VA., St Peterburg/Clearwater FL., and Sarasota FL. Since that time we have attempted no new expansions because of cable rates.

The 1992 leased access provisions - which notable were not repealed in the 1996 Telecommunications Act -- were one of Congress's many responses to the increased vertical integration between system operators and programmers. Having witnessed excessive cable company discrimination against programmers that did not have industry financial participation, Congress directed the FCC to develop regulations that would provide a realistic opportunity for unaffiliated programmers to crack the industry oligopoly and gain access to the viewing public. Unfortunately, in four years the FCC has yet to effectively implement Congress's mandate, while in the interim the integrated cable companies are charging outrageous rates for access when they are providing it at all.

Please let me know who in your office will assist in persuading the FCC to follow Congress's instructions on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fred", is located below the "Sincerely," text.

Fred Vigodsky

HEART TELEVISION NETWORK, INC.

4031 West 61st Street
Los Angeles, California 90043
(213) 292-4469
(213) 292-1362 FAX

November 23, 1996

The Honorable Al Gore
Vice President
Old Executive Building
Washington, D.C. 20501

Re: Leased Access Cable Television

Dear Mr. Vice President:

First and foremost, I would like offer my congratulations to you and the president for your re-election to another four-year term. I especially applaud your "bridge into the twenty-first century" a goal of which I am certain that you will help to develop.

Four years ago, as a member of the United States Senate, you led the victorious effort to enact the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992. The specific part of that act of which I am concerned has to do leased access, which gives local television producers the opportunity to air their programs. Here is what leased access means to me.

As a local television producer, I can create my own television show, and then go to a small local business to sell advertisement time to pay for my production cost and air time. In this scenario everybody wins. The small business wins because it can have its commercials aired without having to pay an arm and leg. I win because I can have my programs aired without having to mortgage my home to pay for the air time, and finally, the viewers win because they get the opportunity to view programming that was not decided by lawyers and accountants¹.

I have heard our president say that "diversity is our greatest asset" and I think the leased accessed cable television plays a significant role in perpetuating such diversity, by creating an environment where diverse ideas can be aired over local cable networks.

¹ As long as commercial television is controlled by ratings, which determine how much the advertisers pay for 30 second commercial, then accountants and lawyers will determine what you and I will be watching on television. In 1992 congress recognized this and sought to remedy this problem with the leased access provision of the 1992 Cable Act.

Unfortunately Mr. Vice President, I cannot say that the FCC has complied with the spirit of the 1992 Cable Act as it relates to promulgating rules and regulations for leased access. It turns out that the large cable companies do not like leased access television because it cuts into the time available for the large cable operators. They would rather offer an hour of time to HBO rather than to make that time available to low cost productions like mine. Because of the remote control device, both productions have an equal chance at that cable viewer, who will be more inclined to watch a show that holds the interest regardless as to the cost of production.

To frustrate the spirit of the law, these large cable operators have used an assortment of tactics to discourage leased accessed producers. These tactics include:

- Setting prices for air time so high, that local producers cannot be competitive.
- Offering air times to local producers when there are few or no viewers.
- Demanding product liability insurance for infomercials
- Failing to maintain the equipment used to air leased access shows that results in poor quality telecasts that turns away potential viewers.
- Demanding that local producers obligate themselves and pay for 13 shows in advance. This policy eliminates the opportunity to air one show just to test the appeal to the audience.

As I understand, the FCC is close to promulgating new rules that will affect cable television and leased access, and I am appealing to you to encourage them to do so, so to provide for more fairness and greater opportunities for leased access producers like myself. I would specifically like to see a reduction in the price for air time, and for more opportunities available to air my shows.

Thank you for your assistance.

~~Your truly,~~

Rudolph L. Dyson
President



November 20, 1996

The Honorable Clarence Irving, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Room 4898
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Four years ago, you along with Congressman Markey and Vice-President Gore led the victorious effort to enact the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992. Unfortunately, the FCC's implementation and oversight of leased access has been non-existent. This is partly due to the inept regulations approved by the FCC, which have harmed the very people -- independent programmers and consumers -- that they were intended to assist. Frankly, this entire leased access exercise has been a charade, with the only winners being the cable companies.

The only thing that any of us want is a fair arrangement for carriage on the local cable company's distribution systems. Carriage on these systems is vital because they are the only television distribution system serving the majority of residents. The cable industry is still enjoying the controlling position of being a monopoly.

I encountered a situation recently with a cable company in Colorado that astounded me, and I think you should be aware of this. I have filed for a lease channel with this cable company. I have requested a meeting with the manager of this cable company many times, but he rarely returns calls, and when he does, he always explains how busy he is and tells me why he can't meet with me. So he called and told me that he was channel locked and he can't put us on.

After mentioning the leased access rules, he told me that he knew the rules, and if I pushed him to put us on, he would take off a very popular network or all of the local FM radio signals, and put a spin on the situation that puts the blame directly on us.

We are a rather small company that specializes in serving the communities that we are based in. We do local news, community information, local high school sporting activities, etc. So for them to blast us with a bad reputation as we startup in this new community will be devastating. We won't be able to hire employees, sell advertising, or anything that we need in order to survive.

282 Wintergreen Road
Branson, MO 65616
(417) 334-1200

Eureka Springs, AR
(501) 253-9676

P.O. Box 4745
Breckenridge, CO 80424
(970) 453-0230

Not only are the leased access rates prohibitively expensive, but when we do offer to pay the high rate, we still get slammed. We need your help right now. Please tell the FCC that you have already given them a mandate to give local programmers access to cable systems. Things aren't working as they stand right now. Please get involved.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Earls', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Scott Earls
General Manager
The Vacation Channel, Inc.**

TV8 ADIRONDACK TELEVISION CORPORATION

22 Nov 96

The Honorable Clarence (Larry) Irving, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th Street & Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Room 4898
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

For several months, I have worked with our industry organization, Community Broadcasters Association, and with individual broadcasters to stimulate the Federal Communications Commission to act, as mandated by the Congress, *in implementing the leased access provisions of the 1992 Cable Act*. All to no avail.

Four years ago, along with Congressman Markey and Vice President Gore, you led the successful campaign to enact the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992. Ever since, hundreds of independent television programmers and broadcasters have anxiously anticipated implementation of the Act's leased access provisions, which were intended to ensure that the vertically and horizontally integrated cable television operators could not exploit their controlling position to monopolize the programming that could be received by cable consumers.

Today, four years later, it is simply a fact that, across this country and certainly throughout New York State, small broadcasters very much like TV8 are angry at *the FCC's four-year stonewall* in formulating and implementing fair pricing and fair access formulas for leased cable space. The FCC's implementation and oversight of leased access has been shameful, and the cable companies are treating leased access programmers at least as badly today as they did in 1992. This is partly due to the inept regulations approved by the FCC, which have harmed the very people -- independent programmers, broadcasters, and consumers -- that they were intended to assist. This entire leased access exercise has been a charade, with the only winners being the cable companies.

TV8 is lucky (for the moment) in that it has good cable carriage; however, with the unpredictability and turbulence of the telecommunications industry, there is no guarantee

that will continue -- in which case, leased access will be TV8's only salvation. But aside from TV8, I know that here in the North Country a number of small television producers get whip-sawed by the unpredictable and ever-changing pricing and demands of local cable systems. Similarly, the ownership of TV8, itself, contemplates the creation of a regional, community network for the North Country -- a plan rendered futile unless leased access becomes available and financially fair to serve our communities, as contemplated by Congress.

The 1992 Cable Act was intended to insure that local and regional producers like those in the North Country (who are not financially affiliated with the enormous cable companies that control cable system access) would have reasonable opportunities for local cable system carriage. The FCC's lengthy delay in implementing Congress's mandate has been extraordinarily harmful to, and effectively prohibited development of, our regional producers of local programming.

The ultimate losers, of course, are our North Country audiences who want to see, and would benefit from local and regional programming. Absolute proof of that is the audience for our own local show, *Senior Scene*. It appears that *Senior Scene* is #1 when it is live at 11:00 a.m. and ranks #4 or #5 among our 35 channels (and against the national networks) when it reruns at 8:00 p.m., daily. Notably, and shamefully, there is no television program on the networks that serves the news, services, and information needs of the huge and crucially important demographic of seniors. Only *Senior Scene* serves this vitally important function in the North Country.

Mr. Secretary, the information superhighway will remain a fantasy if its entrance ramps are impenetrable and its tollbooths are anti-competitive. The current leased access situation harms consumers and the entrepreneurs who are trying to reach them, *and it must be changed immediately*

I urge you to communicate to the FCC that its mandate is to promulgate leased access regulations that effectuate a genuine outlet for independent programmers and broadcasters.

Please allow us to assist you in any way we can.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles F. Adams", with a stylized flourish extending from the left.

Charles F. Adams
President

TV8 ADIRONDACK TELEVISION CORPORATION

22 Nov 96

Representative Gerald B. Solomon
2206 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, C.C. 20515

Dear Cong. Solomon:

Congratulations on another impressive win in the North Country, this election! By the way, TV8 received some very fine comments on the senior citizen spots you ran on *Senior Scene*. And Mary mentioned the other day that she'd like to do a show on telemarketing/scams/seniors if your schedule would allow you to appear to explain your recent legislative efforts in that regard.

The point of this letter, however, is to the issue of the FCC's failure to implement the *leased access provisions of the 1992 Cable Act*. I know that across the country small broadcasters, very much like TV8, are angry at the FCC's procrastination in formulating and implementing fair pricing and fair access formulas for leased cable space.

TV8 is lucky (for the moment) in that it has good cable carriage under the "must carry" rules. However, I know that locally, right here in Greater Glens Falls, a number of small television producers get whip-sawed by the unpredictable and ever-changing pricing and requirements of our local cable systems. Also, the ownership of TV8 contemplates the creation of a regional, community network for the North Country when leased access is made available and financially fair.

The 1992 Cable Act was intended to insure that local and regional producers like those in the North Country (who are not financially affiliated with the enormous cable companies that control cable system access) would have reasonable opportunities for local cable system carriage. The FCC's lengthy delay in implementing Congress's mandate has been extraordinarily harmful to, and effectively prohibited development of, our regional producers of local programming.

The ultimate losers, of course, are our North Country audiences who want to see, and would benefit from, North Country programming. The proof of that is the audience for our local show *Senior Scene*. It appears that *Senior Scene* is #1 when it is live at

11:00 a.m. and ranks #4 or #5 among our 35 channels (and against the national networks) when it reruns at 8:00 p.m., daily.

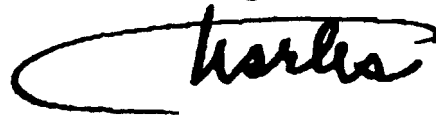
The 1992 leased access provisions -- which notably were not repealed in the 1996 Telecommunications Act -- were one of Congress's many responses to the increased concentration among cable system operators and the increased vertical integration between system operators and programmers. Having witnessed excessive cable company discrimination against programmers that did not have industry financial participation, Congress directed the FCC to develop regulations that would provide a realistic opportunity for unaffiliated programmers to crack the industry oligopoly and gain access to the viewing public.

Unfortunately, in four years the FCC has yet to effectively implement Congress's mandate, while in the interim the integrated cable companies are charging outrageous, double-dipping rates for access -- when they are providing it at all.

Accordingly, the purpose of our petition to you is to solicit your assistance in persuading the FCC to follow Congress's instructions on the matter of leased access. I attach the text of a letter to FCC Chairman Hundt sent by the Congressional delegation from Minnesota. I would be pleased if our New York representatives advanced similar arguments to the FCC on our behalf.

Please allow us to assist you in any way we can.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles", enclosed within a large, horizontal, oval-shaped flourish.

Charles F. Adams
President

November 20, 1996

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are writing to express our concern about the Federal Communications Commission's delay in issuing effective leased access regulations in accordance with the 1992 Cable Act.

As you know, the intent of leased access is to provide independent television programmers an opportunity to have their programming carried on local cable networks under fair and reasonable conditions. These regulations are essential to many small programmers in our state, and to the cable subscribers who benefit from this additional programming.

We urge you to address this situation by promulgating effective leased access regulations consistent with the explicit direction sent by Congress in 1992 to create a "genuine outlet" for independent programmers.

In 1984, Congress enacted section 332 of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, which requires a cable system operator with more than 36 channels to set aside a percentage of those channels for use by entities unaffiliated with the operator. The legislative history notes the desire of Congress to ensure "the widest possible diversity of information sources are made available to the public," which would be accomplished in part by prohibiting cable operators from exercising "any editorial control over any video programming offered" via leased access.

In 1992, Congress authorized the FCC to regulate the terms and conditions of channel leases. The Senate Report of the 1992 Cable Act explicitly criticized the fact that the economics of leased access were, as of that date, not conducive to its use. The new regulatory authority was intended to reverse that problem and to ensure leased access becomes a "genuine outlet for programmers."

Finally, it is notable that in the 1996 Telecommunications Act, when Congress removed virtually all federal price regulation of cable operators, it declined to modify in any way the leased access mandate of the 1992 law.

Thank you very much for your attention to this issue. We would appreciate prompt action by the FCC on this matter, and we look forward to your response. Should you have any questions about this issue, please contact Dean Peterson of Congressman's Ramstad's staff at (202) 225-2871.

Sincerely,

TV8 ADIRONDACK TELEVISION CORPORATION

22 Nov 96

Representative Bill Richardson
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Richardson:

Though this letterhead belies my family's New Mexico roots, we lived in New Mexico when you were first elected; and we continue to maintain substantial holdings and ties to New Mexico.

The purpose of this letter is to solicit your help on a problem that is as real in New Mexico as it is in New York.

For several months, I have worked with our industry organization, Community Broadcasters Association, and with individual broadcasters to stimulate the Federal Communications Commission to act, as mandated by the Congress, *in implementing the leased access provisions of the 1992 Cable Act*. All to no avail.

Four years ago, the Congress enacted the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992. Ever since, hundreds of independent television programmers and broadcasters have anxiously anticipated implementation of the Act's leased access provisions, which were intended to ensure that the vertically and horizontally integrated cable television operators could not exploit their controlling position to prevent competitive programmers and broadcasters from their only opportunity to reach the viewing public..

Today, four years later, it is simply a fact that, across this country, in New York State and New Mexico alike, small television producers and broadcasters very much like TV8 are angry at *the FCC's four-year stonewall* in formulating and implementing fair pricing and fair access formulas for leased cable space. The FCC's implementation and oversight of leased access has been shameful, and the cable companies are treating leased access programmers at least as badly today as they did in 1992. This is partly due to the inept regulations approved by the FCC, which have harmed the very people -- independent programmers, broadcasters, and consumers -- that they were intended to assist. For example, most cable systems charge higher prices for leased access than

before the FCC's regulations were approved. This entire leased access exercise has become a charade, with the only winners being the cable companies.

TV8 is lucky (for the moment) in that it has good cable carriage; however, with the unpredictability and turbulence of the telecommunications industry, there is no guarantee that will continue -- in which case, leased access will be TV8's only salvation. But aside from TV8, I know small television producers throughout the country get whip-sawed by the unpredictable and ever-changing pricing and demands of local cable systems.

The 1992 Cable Act was intended to insure that local and regional (who are not financially affiliated with the enormous cable companies that control cable system access) would have reasonable opportunities for local cable system carriage. The FCC's lengthy delay in implementing Congress's mandate has been extraordinarily harmful to, and effectively prohibited development of, our regional producers of local programming.

The ultimate losers, of course, are our audiences who want to see, and would benefit from local and regional programming. Absolute proof of that is the audience for our own local show, *Senior Scene*. It appears that *Senior Scene* is #1 when it is live at 11:00 a.m. and ranks #4 or #5 among our 35 channels (and against the national networks) when it reruns at 8:00 p.m., daily. Notably, and shamefully, there is no television program on the networks that serves the news, services, and information needs of the huge and crucially important demographic of seniors. Only *Senior Scene* serves this vitally important function, here in the North Country.

Cong. Richardson, the information superhighway will remain a fantasy if its entrance ramps are impenetrable and its tollbooths are anti-competitive. The current leased access system is useless to consumers and damaging to independent programmers and broadcasters. *It must be changed immediately.*

I urge you to communicate to the FCC that its mandate is to promulgate leased access regulations that effectuate a genuine outlet for independent programmers and broadcasters.

Please allow us to assist you in any way we can.

Best regards,



Charles F. Adams
President

R K PRODUCTION COMPANY

2626 Glenchester Road
Wexford, Pennsylvania 15090
412-934-1892

December 5, 1996

The Honorable William Coyne
U.S. House of Representatives
2455 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Coyne:

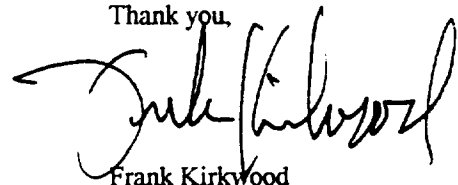
As an independent television programmer, I am very angry about the Federal Communications Commission's four year delay in implementing the leased access provisions of the 1992 Cable Act. These laws were intended to ensure that companies like mine, which are not financially affiliated with the enormous cable companies that control cable system access, would have reasonable opportunities for local cable system carriage. The FCC's lengthy delay in implementing Congress's mandate has been extraordinarily harmful to programmers like mine, as well as to the audiences we are trying to serve.

The 1992 leased access provisions - which notably were not repealed in the 1996 Telecommunications Act - were one of Congress's many responses to the increased concentration among cable system operators and the increased vertical integration between system operators and programmers. Having witnessed excessive cable company discrimination against programmers that did not have industry financial participation, Congress directed the FCC to develop regulations that would provide a realistic opportunity for unaffiliated programmers to crack the industry oligopoly and gain access to the viewing public. Unfortunately, in four years the FCC has yet to effectively implement Congress's mandate, while in the interim the integrated cable companies are engaged in a consistent industry-wide pattern of either flat-out denying access to independent programmers or offering access only under conditions which make it impossible for independent programmers to succeed. These conditions often include prices for cable time that are so high that no independent programmer can make a business work.

In addition to endless delay in developing effective regulations, the FCC has dragged its feet in dealing with complaints from leased access programmers. My company has been waiting more that seven months for rulings on complaints it has filed. Some programmers have waited much, much longer. It is impossible for a leased access programmer to do business in an environment where cable companies can behave illegally without fear of FCC action and where the FCC can nullify an Act of Congress by not making an honest effort to implement it.

I request your assistance in persuading the FCC to follow Congress's instructions on this issue.

Thank you,



Frank Kirkwood
President

R K PRODUCTION COMPANY

2626 Glenchester Road
Wexford, Pennsylvania 15090
412-934-1892

December 5, 1996

The Honorable Rick Santorum
U.S. Senate
120 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Santorum:


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Frank Kirkwood
President

R K PRODUCTION COMPANY

2626 Glenchester Road
Wexford, Pennsylvania 15090
412-934-1892

December 5, 1996

The Honorable Arlen Specter
U.S. Senate
530 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Specter:

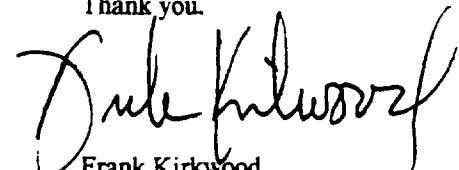
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I request your assistance in persuading the FCC to follow Congress's instructions on this issue.

Thank you.



Frank Kirkwood
President

R K PRODUCTION COMPANY

2626 Glenchester Road
Wexford, Pennsylvania 15090
412-934-1892

December 5, 1996

The Honorable Ron Klink
U.S. House of Representatives
125 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Klink:

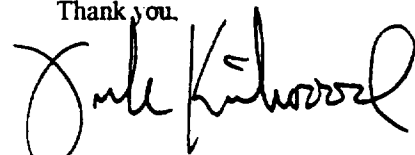
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Thank you.



Frank Kirkwood
President

R K PRODUCTION COMPANY

2626 Glenchester Road
Wexford, Pennsylvania 15090
412-934-1892

December 5, 1996

The Honorable Clarence Irving, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
U. S. Department of Commerce
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Room 4898
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

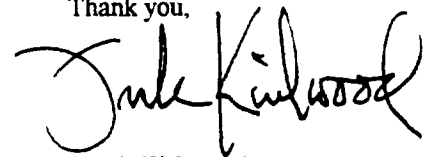
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Thank you,



Frank Kirkwood
President

R K PRODUCTION COMPANY

2626 Glenchester Road
Wexford, Pennsylvania 15090
412-934-1892

December 5, 1996

The Honorable Al Gore
Vice President
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Mr. Vice President:

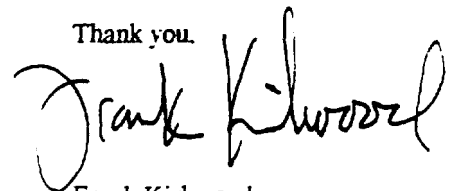
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Frank Kirkwood
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